



## BUREAU OF FIRE MANAGEMENT

3284 W. Industrial Loop


Coeur d'Alene ID 83815

Phone: 208-769-1525

Fax: 208-769-1524

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** IDAHO FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND DISTRICTS

**FROM:** KEN OCKFEN, CHIEF, BUREAU OF FIRE MANAGEMENT 

**DATE:** APRIL 23, 2012

**SUBJECT:** VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE (VFA) GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION

Enclosed is a copy of the **Idaho Department of Lands Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Application for 2012**. Volunteer Fire Assistance is a cooperative program between Idaho Department of Lands and USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry. The VFA application, as well as additional information on the VFA grant process and timeline, is also available online at: [www.idl.idaho.gov](http://www.idl.idaho.gov).

**Important Note:** When developing your VFA Grant Application, please contact your IDL Forest Protective District Fire Warden or Timber Protective Association Fire Warden for assistance with obtaining General Services Administration (GSA) pricing quotes through the Coeur d'Alene Interagency Fire Cache. Some items (for example fold-a-tanks) are not available for purchase through GSA; however, the Coeur d'Alene Interagency Fire Cache may be able to assist with sourcing these items at the most competitive price. When it is possible to order items through the GSA Wildland Fire Equipment Catalog, only GSA or equivalent priced PPE and equipment will be considered for reimbursement. Any expenditure over and above GSA pricing will not be reimbursed.

**Application Deadline: JUNE 1, 2012**

**Submit Applications to:** Your local IDL Forest Protective District/Area Office or Timber Protective Association. For a complete listing of these offices, visit [www.idl.idaho.gov](http://www.idl.idaho.gov).

#### Eligibility Requirements – REVIEW CAREFULLY

Idaho Department of Lands Volunteer Fire Assistance will not be available to a fire department/district applicant who is not a participant in the County Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) process for their county. In addition, all requests for VFA assistance listed on the application should be identified in the applicant county's CWPP or periodic update/addendum.

1. A single fire department serving a rural area or a rural community with a population of 10,000 or less is eligible (latest Census).
2. Area fire departments (fire districts, townships, etc.) may serve an aggregate population of greater than 10,000 as long as the service area of the fire department includes a rural area or a rural community having a population of 10,000 or less. The VFA funding must be used to benefit the rural population.
3. A single county or town with a population over 10,000 that is served by two or more fire districts operating entirely within the bounds of the county or town may qualify as long as the service area of a given fire department includes a rural area, or a rural community, or the population of the fire department's jurisdiction is 10,000 or less. The VFA funding must be used for the rural area.
4. A single community with a population greater than 10,000 and having a single fire department with one or more fire stations may qualify. The fire department must have a service area that includes a rural area or community that does not exceed 10,000 population. The VFA funding must be used only for the benefit of

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the rural population. Similarly a single community with a population greater than 10,000 that also provides fire protection to an adjoining rural community of 10,000 or less population by contract may also be eligible provided the VFA funding is used entirely to support the rural community.

5. A single community fire department serving a population greater than 10,000, and not providing protection to a rural area or to a rural community, is not eligible for VFA financial assistance.
6. While paid fire departments are not excluded from participation in the VFA program, targeting of grants to qualifying fire departments having a membership comprised at least 80 percent volunteer firefighters is encouraged.
7. The fire department/district share (match) of the financial assistance must be available at the time of application. Match must be "hard" (cash) match; non-reimbursable out-of-pocket expenses where the subrecipient is responsible for payment. Applicants may not derive their share from other sources of federal government assistance. Note: Fire departments/districts must be able to provide a hard (cash) match of at least ten percent of grant funds being requested.
8. Application must be completed in full and signed by the fire department/district's Fire Chief in order to be considered.
9. **When developing your VFA Grant Application, please contact your IDL Forest Protective District Fire Warden or Timber Protective Association Fire Warden for assistance with obtaining GSA pricing quotes for items available through GSA. The GSA Wildland Fire Equipment Catalog can be viewed online at:**  
<https://www.gsaglobalsupply.gsa.gov/advantage/search/search.do?cat=GGS.WILD>.
10. **When it is possible to order items through the GSA Wildland Fire Equipment Catalog, only GSA or equivalent priced PPE and equipment will be considered for reimbursement. Any expenditure over and above GSA pricing will not be reimbursed.**
11. Wildland firefighting boots **will not** be funded.
12. Fire Shelters – These grant funds will not cover a personal shelter for every member of the applicant's fire department/district. IDL will only consider shelters for the number of seats on wildland apparatus.
13. Communications Equipment – This program will only consider requests with pricing quotes from State Bid Contract vendors. (For information on vendors, contact the State of Idaho Department of Administration-Purchasing). All radios purchased must be narrow band and specified as such on the vendor quote. Radios purchased must be compliant with the applicant county's radio plan.
14. Training – There are several state agencies responsible for training of personnel. Applicant should pursue these avenues before applying for funding through this grant by contacting the local Idaho Department of Lands, Timber Protective Association, Bureau of Land Management, or Forest Service representative. Another training resource is the State of Idaho Division of Professional-Technical Education on the web at: [www.est.idaho.gov](http://www.est.idaho.gov).
15. Project Request – Provide a detailed description of how this request will improve the response capability within the designated service area for which the applicant's department/district is first and foremost responsible.

Contact your local Idaho Department of Lands Forest Protective District/Area Office or Timber Protective Association if you have any questions or concerns regarding the Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Program. **Applications must be submitted to your local Idaho Department of Lands Forest Protective District/Area Office or Timber Protective Association no later than June 1, 2012.** For a complete listing of IDL Area Offices/Timber Protective Associations, refer to the State Government section of your local telephone book, or visit the Idaho Department of Lands website at: [www.idl.idaho.gov](http://www.idl.idaho.gov).